

I oppose efforts by the NAB to restrict programming on satellite radio. Satellite radio offers choice, quality, and convenience no longer commonly available on broadcast AM or FM radio. I use the XM traffic and weather services when I travel to major metro areas. Without them, I would not likely listen to broadcast radio for more than a few minutes than I do now.

The technology to provide similar services through broadcast radio is, for the most part, here if broadcasters wanted to provide a similar service. When digital broadcast radio is introduced, another enabling technology be available to broadcasters if they choose to compete in the marketplace, not through political or legal channels.

XM is a paid service that, I appreciate, uses resources allocated to it by the government. Is it not, however, similar to the authority granted to cable providers by municipal governments? Our cable provider is required to provide a certain minimum of technology and content. It would seem foolish of our local government to say, however, "no Weather Channel--there's a local TV station" or "you have to maintain the wires, but don't use them for value-added services that benefit our citizens."

I respectfully ask that the abilities of satellite radio providers to offer programming that serves its customer not be further restricted. I also request that all electronic mass media companies, regardless of their specific medium, be encouraged to focus on innovation of technology and content to better serve their listeners and to more aggressively compete in an open marketplace.

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